

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1                   1.       A method for extracting business logic from computer code having a  
2 plurality of statements, the method comprising:  
3                   examining the plurality of statements to identify a plurality of conditional  
4 statements and a plurality of action statements;  
5                   tagging the plurality of conditional statements and the plurality of action  
6 statements, wherein each conditional statement has an associated tag and each action  
7 statement has an associated tag;  
8                   grouping the plurality of conditional statements and the plurality of action  
9 statements; and  
10                  generating a plurality of action sets based on the plurality of conditional  
11 statements, wherein each of the plurality of action sets includes an associated set of action  
12 statements; and  
13                  for each action set, identifying the associated set of action statements from the  
14 grouped plurality of action statements.

1                   2.       The method of claim 1 wherein each conditional statement is uniquely  
2 identified by its associated tag.

1                   3.       The method of claim 1 wherein each action statement is linked to one  
2 or more corresponding conditional statements; and  
3                   wherein the associated tag for each action statement includes information  
4 relating to the conditional statement to which the action statement is directly linked, status  
5 information indicating a condition relating to the directly linked conditional statement under  
6 which the action statement is executed, and information relating to all linked conditional  
7 statements representing conditions under which the action statement is executed.

1                   4.       The method of claim 1 wherein the method is implemented using  
2 computer software.

1                   5.       The method of claim 1 wherein the computer code is written in  
2 COBOL.